

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, July 13, 1883, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Oakland, July 13th, 1883. My darling Alec:

Thank you very much for the nice present you have made me today. I am sure it will give not only you and your wife much pleasure, but also a great many other people. The horses are at present no great beauties, but Perrin is quite enthusiastic over them and sure that a few weeks dieting on oats and a little care will effect such wonders in their appearance that we shall not care to sell them next autumn. We shall see, meanwhile they are very ordinary looking brown horses, very like if indeed they are not the horses that Mr. White drove us about in. One is seven years old and is a good ladies' saddle-horse, the other four and a little larger. I did not suppose you would object to my driving with them with Perrin as coachman, so Sister, Maurice and I went for an hours drive along the Deer Park drive. The horses seemed very gentle, stopping instantly at a word from the driver and although a little frightened at the flaring bill posters calming at once on a word from Perrin again, they did not shy violently as Primo does, merely pricked up their ears. They go at a pretty good pace nearly as fast as Primo and Perrin said the two of them together did not pull as hard as our pony. They are not very strong just now as they have not had any oats for months, but will be. Their owner declared they were worth more than the price asked that he could get \$325 for them by waiting, but preferred to sell for immediate cash, but not a cent under \$300 would he take. We want harness of course, I have told 2 Perrin to tell me particulars. Can I have silver mounted harness or is it too expensive? I will be satisfied with whatever you decide. I wonder how long it will be before the carriage comes I am impatient to see it, but anyway much prefer taking my first drive in my own carriage and behind our own horses with my husband. Of course their names are Secondo and Terzo.

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The children went to the circus for a little while with Perrin and the nurse, but neither seemed at all excited to judge of their manner on return and from what Susie says. They are already fast asleep. Perrin says he cannot measure the horses tonight but we will telegraph tomorrow, meantime he wants 3 good sponges, 2 chamois, 1 cake black soap which he says can't be got here.

Now that you have heard from Papa do hurry on the buildings, I really need the extension as it gives me the nurse's room near the children. I shall be so glad when I hear that the ground is broken.

A great deal of love. I am so glad the punka is going to help Mr. Johnson.

Your loving, Mabel. Please telegraph Maurice as Mr. N. Grossman, Esz., they don't like it without.